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Arab League censures Spain

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League, winding up two days of meetings on Friday, voiced its disapproval of Spain's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and recommended that Arab governments "adopt measures" to defend their interests. The brief morning session of the league's foreign ministers followed a longer meeting Thursday in which the organisation renewed its condemnation of American economic sanctions and military threats against Libya, but refrained from taking any specific counter-measures (See page 2). The question of Spain was brought before the league by Syria. One Arab source said the Syrians were pushing to have Arab countries withdraw their ambassadors from Spain to show their displeasure at the establishment of relations with Israel. Instead, the league issued a communique expressing its "regret and disapproval" of the Spanish action, which it said had "damaged Arab-Spanish relations."

Geneva to host new Cyprus talks

GENEVA (AP) — Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders have agreed to a new round of talks with U.N. officials on the future of the island. U.N. spokesman said Friday. "Discussions with the Greek Cypriot leader will begin on Feb. 27 and with the Greek Cypriot leader on March 2," spokesman Charles Gaulin told Reuters. The talks are expected to last two or three days. Greek Cypriot leaders were set during a visit this week by Brian Urquhart, acting head of U.N. peacekeeping operations, and General Feroz, U.N. under-secretary general for special political affairs. Gaulin said. The envoys saw President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said his efforts on Cyprus to be "at an important juncture."

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UNRWA chief arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli arrived in Amman on Friday for a five-day visit during which he will meet senior officials. Mr. Giacomelli's talks here will focus on UNRWA's current situation and the services it offers to Palestinian refugees on the East Bank. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The UNRWA Commissioner, who arrived from Syria, is due to meet with heads of government and institutions which cooperate with UNRWA, said UNRWA Public Information Officer William Lee.

Israeli leaflets warn Sidon residents

SIDON (R) — Israeli warplanes showed leaflets on the southern port of Sidon on Friday warning inhabitants not to cooperate with Palestinian "commandos." "Any cooperation with subversive Palestinian organisations will result in destruction on your homes," said the leaflet, signed by General Ori Orr, head of Israel's northern command. The planes drew ground fire as they repeatedly screamed low over the city, near the big Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp that was hit in an Israeli air raid two days ago. "The air raid... came to remind you once again that Israel will not allow any hostile activities that make Lebanon a launching pad."

4 women injured in E. Beirut blast

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb wounded four women in east Beirut, just after a passerby stepped on it. A pile of garbage and debris was thrown in the air, witnesses said. The blast rocked a residential street in the Sini Al Fil district shortly after midnight, shattering shop windows and wrecking half a dozen parked cars.

Spain to hold referendum in March

MADRID (AP) — The government plans to hold a referendum March 12 on whether Spain should continue its membership in NATO, Vice Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra said Friday. Spain joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in May 1982, under a centrist government, although its armed forces have never been integrated into the alliance's military structure. At a news conference, Mr. Guerra said the Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez approved the decision to hold the referendum at a Friday cabinet meeting.

Sri Lankan rebels offer to free British woman

MADRAS (AP) — Tamil guerrillas have offered to hand over a kidnapped British woman to the International Red Cross, but the Sri Lankan government has rejected the proposal, a rebel spokesman said Friday. Penelope Willis, 64, was abducted by Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka's troubled northeast on Jan. 31. V. Balakumar, leader of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, said his group contacted the Red Cross on Tuesday and offered to turn over Mrs. Willis to its representatives.

U.S. vetoes decision rejecting Israeli claims to Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — The United States has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution that contained a rejection of Israel's claim to all of Jerusalem as its "eternal undivisible capital."

Thirteen members, including Britain and France, voted on Thursday in favour of the resolution, which strongly deplored recent "provocative acts" by the Israelis at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's most sacred sites. Thailand cast the sole abstention vote. Although voting against the resolution, Patricia Byrne of the United States said that her government's position on the status of the Holy City remained unchanged. Ms. Byrne said that the United States deplored recent acts by "certain individuals" including members of the Knesset and others who took part in disturbances at the sanctuary of Haram Al Sharif.

But she termed the draft resolution "inappropriate," giving the unmistakable impression that the Israeli government was to

blame for the provocative actions of "a few individuals." "This resolution is also designed to use these incidents as a pretext for addressing larger issues of the status of Jerusalem and Israel's stewardship as an occupying power," she contended. The draft resolution was only the second one before the council this year. Ms. Byrne vetoed both of them. The first one called for the deploring of Israeli actions in southern Lebanon.

In the latest case, Islamic countries brought the complaint against Israel following several incidents at Al Aqsa Mosque. A team of Israeli parliament members paid two stormy visits to the site last month and later a group of Israelis tried to hoist an Israeli flag at the site.

In a U.N. debate that began on Jan. 21, representatives of virtually all Muslim countries den-

ounced Israel. While the United States delegate affirmed that her government's position regarding Jerusalem was unchanged, other diplomats said the veto was significant because it represented the first time that Western ranks were broken after nine resolutions affirming the international status of Jerusalem and directing Israel not to change that.

Before the vote, Britain's Sir John Thomson affirmed that his government was unable to recognise the sovereignty of any state over Jerusalem pending a final determination on status. Australia and Denmark were among those voting for the draft resolution, which was offered by Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates.

A spokesman for Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir voiced "deep disappointment" on Friday with four Western allies for backing the resolution.

In a statement to reporters, the spokesman's office singled out Britain, Denmark, France and Australia among the Security Council members who favoured the proposal.

White House voices urgency over Mideast peace efforts

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan's administration warned late Thursday against delays and lost opportunities for settlement of the Middle East dispute. It sharply disputed suggestions that new U.S. moves would be held up until after the congressional elections next November.

"The issue of the Middle East and of peace and war is so great and serious that it has to be addressed on its own merits and transcends any elections," White House spokesman Edward Djerejian said in reply to questions by foreign correspondents.

"It is very fallacious to proceed on the assumption that American Middle East policy is being determined on the basis of electoral considerations," Djerejian said.

Voicing urgency about pressing on towards the U.S. goal of direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, Djerejian said the administration was "somewhat encouraged" by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's recent meetings with King Hussein and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel.

"The question of time is more pressing now. Opportunities can be lost if nothing is done on a timely basis... there have been no major breakthroughs but (there has been) incremental progress, and the challenge to diplomacy is to see if we can carry the process forward," he said.

Djerejian said Mr. Murphy's talks had helped clarify the controversial matters of Palestinian representation and on convening an international forum in connection with future negotiations.

In the U.S. Senate, meanwhile, Republican leaders sought a compromise Thursday that would block Mr. Reagan's proposed \$1.9-billion arms sale to Jordan without a vote on the Senate floor.

"We're working on something they (administration officials) can agree on," Senate majority leader Robert Dole said after meeting with Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar and opponents of the sale.

Senate sources, who asked not to be identified, told the AP Mr. Dole is urging administration officials not to press ahead with the

arms sale, which faces overwhelming opposition in both houses of Congress, and is opposed by the Israeli government as well.

At the same time, he is hoping that opponents of the sale will refrain from forcing a vote on the issue as long as the administration pulls back, the sources added.

One source said one possible plan would keep the sale technically alive, but have Mr. Reagan pledge to Congress not to proceed with it until the Middle East peace situation had improved.

However, Djerejian said later in the day: "The president's commitment and the priority he places on arms sales to Jordan... have not changed... arms sales to Jordan is a very important part of our strategy in the Middle East."

Djerejian added at the meeting with foreign correspondents that Jordan "has made some very courageous and very important decisions to move the peace process forward... Jordan has legitimate defence needs (that) ... in no way

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KUWAITI DEFENCE MINISTER ARRIVES: Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah upon his arrival in Amman on Friday at the head of a military delegation on an official visit to Jordan. (Petra photo)

Khayyat, denouncing Israeli acts, urges Islamic strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat on Friday strongly denounced Israel's violations of Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied territories and called for a united Islamic stand against the Israeli actions.

Dr. Khayyat, delivering Friday sermons at the Grand Hussein Mosque in Amman, outlined the political and religious dimensions of the Israeli actions and refuted Jewish claims of right to pray at Haram Al Sharif in occupied Jerusalem.

"It is the duty of every Muslim in the world to get rid of their differences and become one hand to confront the Israeli practices and conspiracies to establish their so-called temple at Haram Al Sharif," Dr. Khayyat said.

Dr. Khayyat attacked Jewish claims to the site during a meeting with ministry officials on Tuesday. He said there was no evidence of Jewish remains or antiquities in the compound and the Israelis were fabricating evidence to give them a pretext for presence in the site.

Dr. Khayyat said the Israelis occupying Jerusalem and the West Bank had "imposed taxes, confiscated lands, jailed innocent people, killed Arabs and made them homeless, burned Al Aqsa Mosque and laid hands on the yard of Maraj (around the mosque), which they pretend was their waiting wall."

Dr. Khayyat's address came in line with a decision by the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to devote this Friday's sermons at mosques throughout the Islamic world to bring attention to Israeli violations of Islamic holy places in the occupied territories.

The minister's speech came a day after the United States vetoed

a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israeli acts which have violated the sanctity of Islamic shrines in the Old City of Jerusalem.

On Thursday, a committee in charge of reconstructing Al Aqsa Mosque issued an appeal to the Arab and Islamic nations to help speed up reconstruction and restoration work at Islamic holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

A statement said that the committee estimates that such restoration work will cost JD 2 million.

The committee, the statement said, met under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan and discussed a number of other topics on the agenda but focused attention on the situation at Islamic places, like Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

Washington retracts statement that Haiti government is toppled

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration on Friday pulled back from an earlier statement that the Haitian government had collapsed and that President Jean-Claude Duvalier had fled the country.

U.S. State Department officials said Mr. Duvalier remained in his palace and had not left the country.

Edward Djerejian, spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, told Reuters: "The situation on the ground is confusing. We did receive initial reports that Duvalier had fled. Subsequent reports are contradictory as to his whereabouts."

"We are watching the situation closely and cannot really say anything definitive at this point."

Earlier, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the Duvalier government had fallen. He said his information came from the U.S. embassy in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. Speakes made the remarks to reporters aboard President Reagan's plane en route to a memorial service for the space shuttle astronauts in Houston.

Later, Speakes told reporters the situation was not as clear as had been thought at first.

"There are conflicting reports," he said.

He said the U.S. embassy in Haiti was not certain that Mr. Duvalier had left the country.

A U.S. official aboard Mr. Reagan's aircraft who requested anonymity said: "We thought something was going to happen for some time now. The situation was very unstable."

Mr. Duvalier went on national radio in Haiti and denied that his regime had collapsed.

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Israelis expel three Palestinians to East Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli authorities deported three Palestinians to the East Bank on Friday after the three cancelled an appeal to the Israeli supreme court to block the expulsion.

Military sources quoted by the AP said the men were escorted to the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan River, raising to nine the number of Palestinians deported since last August. Deportation orders are pending against five others.

The Israelis contended that the three, arrested Oct. 28, were leading members of anti-Israeli organisations.

According to sources quoted by Reuters, the three were taken to a remote border crossing at Wadi Arba and sent across to the East Bank.

The three men, dentist Azmi Shuabli, trade union activist Ali Abu Hilal and journalist Hassan Faraghe, were accused by the army of organising guerrilla cells.

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Amin claims he is returning to Uganda

BAHRAIN (AP) — Former dictator Idi Amin of Uganda said on Friday he was in the southern Sudanese region of Juba, allegedly preparing to cross into his country for an undisclosed purpose.

He telephoned the Associated Press Bahrain office to announce that he had left his exile in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on his way to Kampala from the Sudanese province.

Although he congratulated the new leadership in Kampala, Amin stopped short of clarifying whether his planned return to Uganda was the product of an understanding with Kampala, or that he was to attempt to reinstate himself as president of the East African nation.

It was the first time since his overthrow by Milton Obote in 1979 that he got that close to Uganda.

The move came in the wake of the accession to power by Yoweri Museveni, the leader of the National Resistance Army (NRA) who was sworn in earlier in the week as Uganda's president.

They lodged an appeal in the Israeli supreme court but withdrew it on Thursday, saying they did not believe they could get a fair trial.

Under Israeli law, defence lawyers cannot see evidence against their clients which judges believe would harm Israeli intelligence networks in the West Bank. "This closes the door for our lawyers to defend us," they said in a statement to the court.

In another development, Israeli police sources told Reuters a 22-year-old Palestinian has confessed to shooting dead an Israeli police intelligence officer on Thursday near the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

Omar Farraj of Silwan, a Jerusalem suburb, was arrested at his home soon after police Sergeant Major Avraham Biazzi was killed by automatic weapons fire as his car passed Jaffa Gate, the sources said.

Farraj, who was expected to

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Kohl backs Mubarak's call for European role in Mideast

BONN (Agencies) — West German leader on Friday gave firm backing to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for greater European involvement in the Middle East peace process and pledged to seek support among their allies.

Appearing at a joint news conference with Mr. Mubarak, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he wanted to discuss the proposal with other European partners and would make a start next week when he meets French, Belgian and Dutch leaders in Paris.

"I hope that we in Europe can reach a common position on how to make an important contribution (to the peace process)," Dr. Kohl added.

Mr. Mubarak held talks with both Dr. Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on the second day of a visit to Bonn to explain his call for the Europeans to set up a contact group to try to overcome obstacles towards a peace conference.

The foreign ministry said Mr. Genscher told Mr. Mubarak he shared the view that the Europeans should now assume an "operational role" in trying to get the peace process moving.

"He (Mr. Genscher) stressed that he would campaign within the European Community for the EC to use all means at its disposal to lobby among the parties involved for progress," it added.

Answering questions at Friday's press conference Mr. Mubarak said on Friday that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation is needed for any lasting solution to the Middle East conflict, adding that the search for peace had entered a "difficult and sensitive" phase.

Mr. Mubarak said that he had talked with King Hussein by telephone Thursday night after arriving in Bonn.

Mr. Mubarak said he and the King had discussed the talks going on in Amman between the PLO and Jordan.

"I think we find ourselves in a difficult and sensitive time right now," the Egyptian president said.

"Therefore I would consider it extremely important if the Europeans would build up and strengthen their contribution in this connection," he said.

A major stumbling block to negotiations is deciding how the Palestinians should be represented at any peace conference, Mr. Mubarak said.

The Egyptian leader made clear his main concern was to achieve progress towards a peace settlement while Shimon Peres is still prime minister of Israel. Peres is due to hand over to right-wing Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in October.

Museveni for being sworn in as president," said Amin. "I assure him of my complete support. He has very big opposition who are strongly armed to the teeth and the seat of the president on which he sits is a very hot one."

He said that "many people accused me of being a dictator, but he (Mr. Museveni) will now taste whether sitting on that chair is sweet or bitter."

AP reporters who took the telephone call clearly recognised Amin's voice and manner of speaking. But the allegation that the call originated in Juba could not be independently verified.

"I congratulate Qadhafi because he gave Museveni the strong muscle... because the Libyan leader helps revolutions all over the world," said Amin. "But the arms of the son of Islam should not be used for slaughtering. They were given to Museveni to get to power, to help unite all of Africa against the enemies of Africa, the Arab Nation and the Third World."

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Arab League condemns U.S. sanctions against Libya

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League condemned U.S. threats and economic sanctions against Libya at a special session, at which Tripoli withdrew a demand for retaliatory measures against Washington.

The condemnation was contained in a resolution which expressed total solidarity with Tripoli and warned the United States of the danger of any armed attack against Libya.

It also called for a halt to all forms of provocation against Tripoli. The U.S. Sixth Fleet is carrying out manoeuvres in the Mediterranean in waters claimed by Libya.

In a further pledge of Arab support, the resolution said member states would take steps to cushion the Libyan economy against the effects of the U.S. economic sanctions, which come into full effect on Saturday.

The resolution was passed after Libya withdrew a request for economic countermeasures against Washington, which announced its sanctions early this month after accusing Libya of harbouring Palestinian guerrillas who carried out airport attacks in Rome and Vienna on Dec. 27.

Libya has said it had nothing to do with the attacks.

The resolution added that Arab League states would call for a United Nations Security Council meeting to examine the question of American threats against Libya.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureki told Reuters before the meeting that Tripoli would call for the withdrawal of Arab funds from the U.S., a reduction in imports of American goods and reprisals against any American company taking part in the U.S. economic boycott.

But Mr. Tureki told the meeting Libya would not press for Arab sanctions proposed in a

memorandum which it had not formally presented to the league secretariat, the sources said.

Although it was officially a foreign ministers' meeting, only eight of the league's 21 member states attended at this level. The rest sent permanent representatives to the league.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal attended on condition Libya dropped its demand for sanctions, the sources added.

Saudi Arabia, together with other Gulf countries, rejected the Libyan memorandum when it was presented to them by a Libyan envoy during a Gulf tour recently, they said.

U.S. ends exercises

Meanwhile U.S. military officials said the U.S. Sixth Fleet Thursday night ended a week of naval manoeuvres north of Libya without directly challenging Tripoli's territorial claim to the Gulf of Sidra.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters nearly two dozen U.S. warships, including the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and Saratoga, had resumed normal operations in the Mediterranean after a week-long war of nerves between the two countries.

Libya claims jurisdiction over the Gulf of Sidra, a claim which Washington sharply disputes. Two U.S. F-14 jets shot down two Libyan SU-22 jets over the Gulf in a missile battle in 1981.

Despite predictions in news reports during the past week, military officials told Reuters that

during the manoeuvres neither U.S. ships nor aircraft had passed across a "line of death" drawn by Col. Qadhafi north of the Gulf of Sidra.

"We will be in and around the area for some time and if we plan to do any other naval exercises in international waters in that area we will give the proper notices and do it," Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in Detroit Thursday.

U.S. intelligence officials told Reuters Thursday that the Soviet Union had cautioned Libya against firing new SA-5 long-range anti-aircraft missiles at U.S. military jets over the Mediterranean. "Apparently Moscow does not want any shooting," said one of the officials, who spoke on grounds that they not be identified.

They said a small number of the Soviet-built, 240-kilometres SA-5s had been put on launchers near Surt on Libya's north coast and could cover much of the Gulf of Sidra.

"It is believed that the SA-5 missiles are in control of the Libyans, but the Soviets have cautioned them against firing these things while we are moving around off the gulf," said one of the intelligence officials.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States currently have more than 20 navy ships each in the Mediterranean and Pentagon officials said earlier that the Soviet Navy was helping Libya with electronic surveillance on the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Citing unidentified administration officials, the Washington Post reported Thursday that Col. Qadhafi was threatening to use the SA-5 missiles on any U.S. planes that might fly over the gulf.

The New York Times reported

Friday that the United States is considering granting new licences to U.S. oil companies that would allow them to continue to operate in Libya.

Under penalties announced by President Reagan on Jan. 7, all Americans were ordered to leave Libya and all U.S. citizens and companies to stop doing business with Libya as of Saturday.

Washington began considering the new licences when U.S. companies said the regulations would mean turning over more than \$1 billion in equipment to the Libyan government and giving that government \$150 million per year from the sale of Libyan oil on the world market, the Times said.

The major U.S. oil companies operating in Libya have been Occidental Petroleum, Conoco, Marathon, Amerasia Hess and W.R. Grace, the newspaper said.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday it had no evidence that U.S. oil companies were shifting Libyan oil to foreign concerns to undercut the U.S. economic boycott of Libya.

The Washington Post reported from Tripoli Thursday that four of the five American oil companies operating in Libya had in effect undercut the embargo by "lending" or selling their production to oil companies of other nations.

Asked about the report, State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters: "We have no evidence indicating that U.S. oil companies have shifted assets or operations to third countries or foreign subsidiaries."

He added that the United States had been assured of this by the companies involved and that there was no reason to believe the firms would take actions inconsistent with the U.S. economic sanctions.

Aden still pursues unity with Sana'a

ADEN (R) — South Yemen's new leadership, which ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammad after 12 days of fighting this month, has pledged to pursue unity plans with North Yemen, Radio Aden said Friday.

It quoted a statement by the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council that "the Democratic Republic of Yemen will continue cementing ties with the North (Yemen) region with the aim of achieving unity."

Arab diplomatic sources said the pledge was apparently intended to dispel North Yemeni apprehension that the new Aden leadership might be hostile. The two countries have been discussing merger plans for several years.

In another conciliatory move, the Presidium, under interim head of state Haider Abu Baker Al Attas, undertook to "preserve and consolidate brotherly relations with all Arab states, based on mutual respect and solidarity against imperialism and Zionism."

The Presidium's statement said: "All measures and steps must be taken to bring (Ali) Nasser Mohammad and his clique to trial so that justice be done for the crimes they have committed against the homeland and people..."

Leaders of South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party have accused Mr. Nasser Mohammad of trying to kill senior party men and impose a dictatorship. His exact whereabouts are unknown.

Local government minister Ali Salem Al Beedhi, a Central Committee member, said by Radio Aden on Jan. 13 to have been executed for plotting against Mr. Nasser Mohammad, appeared at a news conference in Aden Thursday.

He said Mr. Nasser Mohammad's guards opened fire on members assembled for a meeting on Jan. 13, killing former Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Nasser Antar, his successor Saleh Moshleh Qassem and head of the party's Control Committee Ali Shaeh.

Mr. Beedhi said he was injured in later fighting and spent some time in hospital.

Meanwhile, the Soviet daily Pravda said Friday U.S. allegations that Moscow favoured one side in the South Yemen conflict were an invention to help Washington strengthen its hand in the region.

The Communist Party newspaper said statements attributed to U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb that the Kremlin "planted" Prime Minister Haider Abu Baker Al Attas as interim head of state were completely untrue.

It said Mr. Attas came to Moscow only as a stop-over from New Delhi on his way home.

Accusations that the Soviet Union tried to dictate the outcome of the fighting were merely a pretext for U.S. intervention in the affairs of sovereign Third World states, the newspaper said.

S.Korean diplomat kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen kidnapped a South Korean diplomat on his way to work in Muslim-held west Beirut Friday in what was believed to be the first seizure of a Far Eastern official in Lebanon.

They snatched Second Secretary Do Chae-Sung after forcing his car to stop on a seaford boulevard by shooting out two of its tyres 300 metres from the embassy, Lebanese security sources said.

In Seoul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said four men bundled the diplomat into the boot of another car and sped off. He said he had no idea why the diplomat was taken.

Embassy officials in Beirut declined to comment, but the security sources said Mr. Chae-Sung was riding with the South Korean consul in a green Peugeot station wagon without diplomatic markings when the car was ambushed at 0810 local time (0619 GMT).

The consul was not taken, the sources said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the abduction, which brought to 14 the number of foreigners held by kidnappers in Lebanon. Seven of them are diplomats or embassy officials.

Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said Mr. Chae-Sung arrived in Beirut last August and worked in the consular section of the embassy. He is one of six South Koreans on the Lebanese government diplomatic list.

South Korea, which has no close historical links with Lebanon, is one of a dwindling band of countries which keep diplomats in the anarchic Western part of Beirut.

Almost all kidnappings of foreigners have taken place there and many countries have moved their embassies to Christian east Beirut or shut down missions altogether and transferred to Syria or Cyprus.

Top Soviet team to arrive in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — The highest-level Soviet political delegation to visit Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution is due here on Sunday, heralding warmer relations between the two neighbours and a pragmatic approach to differences.

Leading the Soviet team, as Iran celebrates the sixth anniversary of the revolution, will be First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kornienko. He is ready to discuss a general expansion of ties, a Soviet embassy official told Reuters.

Top Iranian officials have recently spoken of a need for positive relations with Moscow, although "some recommendations cautioning that the Soviet Union has occupied northern Iran twice this century."

Iranian officials have publicly stated various points for discussion with the Soviets:

— The Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, on Iran's eastern border.

— Soviet arms sales to Iran's Gulf war enemy, Iraq.

— Iran's clandestine, pro-Soviet Tudeh Communist Party, suppressed in 1983.

— "Abandoned projects." Several hundred Soviet engineers and their families left two power station projects and a steel plant near the provincial cities of Ahvaz and Isfahan when Iraq and Iran fought these targets in early 1985.

Two Lebanese employees of an American television network were freed unharmed by kidnappers Thursday after being held for more than a month, an NBC spokesman said.

The spokesman said the two cameramen Milhem Hneih, 36, and driver Youssef Awwad, 62, had been released at about 2115 local time (1915 GMT) but declined to give any further details.

The men failed to report at the NBC office in west Beirut on Dec. 17 after setting out for work from the Christian east. NBC said at the time they were missing and feared kidnapped.

Earlier on Thursday Muslim militias demanding the resignation of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel shelled his palace and Palestinians fought Shi'ite Muslims for the third consecutive day.

Security sources said the 43-year-old Falangist president was in the building but escaped unhurt when artillery rounds slammed into the palace grounds in the Baabda suburb of Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel is under strong pressure to quit or support a Syrian-sponsored militia pact to end civil war.

But the Falange Party which backs him issued a statement after Thursday's bombardment saying his resignation was "out of the question."

Radios said shelling occasionally spilled into Beirut, where two soldiers and a headmistress were wounded by sniper fire across the "Green Line" dividing East and West Beirut.

Machinegun fire rattled through refugee camps as Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia continued clashes that have killed 10 people and wounded 28. The fighting was the worst between them since more than 40 people were killed and 160 wounded at the Bourj Al Barajneh Camp last September.

Thursday's violence pushed the hard-hit Lebanese pound to another record low closing price of 23.75/24.25 to the dollar, against 23.00/23.40 Wednesday.

"The shells near Baabda sent people rushing to buy dollars," one dealer said, noting the pound at one point traded as low as 25 to the dollar. "There was some panic," he added.

Sporadic shooting between Palestinian and Shi'ite fighters erupted for the third day in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut's southern suburbs, residents said.

Sniper fire cracked out from the Shatila and Sabra camps as fighters threw up new sandbagged fortifications, despite peace efforts by a committee grouping officials of the Shi'ite Amal militia, pro-Syrian Palestinian factions and Syrian observers.

"There are good intentions at the top level, but unruly elements are disrupting efforts to restore calm," Abu Ahmad of the Palestine National Salvation Front told Reuters.

He said seven Palestinians had been killed since fighting flared on Tuesday night and three were wounded Thursday. Amal sources said three Shi'ite fighters had died.

Abu Ahmad added six Palestinians had been kidnapped, but he could not confirm a report from the Palestine Liberation Organisation news agency Wafa that they had been killed.

The fighting has been the worst since last summer's bitter "camps war" which claimed some 630 lives as Amal battled to forestall any revival of Palestinian military power in west Beirut and South Lebanon.

Kuwait to launch Silver Jubilee celebrations

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans rare public celebrations next Saturday to launch a month-long Silver Jubilee festival marking 25 years of independence.

The small, oil-producing emirate has become one of the world's richest countries since it gained full independence from Britain in 1961.

"In little over a half-century, it has been transformed by big oil finds from a pearl-producing, desert trading post and dhow-building port to a modern, cosmopolitan city-state. It ranks as one of the Middle East's leading financial centres."

In recent years, however, the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah decided against festivities usually held on state holidays and the National Day, which falls on Feb. 25.

This has been out of respect and sympathy for friendly Arab nations embroiled in Middle East upheavals.

Kuwait has also been preoccupied with a security cla-

mpdown since a string of bombings at the U.S. and French embassies and government targets in December 1983, apparently in protest for Kuwait's support of Iraq in its five-year-old war with Iran.

The crackdown was stepped up after a car-bomb attempt on the emir last May, claimed by the Islamic Jihad (holy war) organisation, which also claimed credit for the 1983 blasts. Those attacks, and two cafe blasts last July, claimed 21 lives.

Celebrations will be launched Saturday with a 25-gun salute and formal flag-raising ceremony at the Salim (peace) Palace overlooking Kuwait Bay. Folklore troupes will perform and a military parade and airforce fly-past will be staged.

The city's skyline is already a patchwork of dancing lights and fluttering flags, banners and bunting in the green, red, black and white national colours.

Lebanese astrologist predicted shuttle blast

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese astrologist Georges Tabet predicted in an interview last week that an explosion would destroy an American space shuttle.

The interview in the Jan. 20-26 edition of the Beirut weekly An Nahar Arab and International appeared a week before the shuttle Challenger exploded after its launch on Tuesday from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

"NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) will witness a serious accident — one of the shuttles will be unable to fly because it will explode..."

"This will perplex the scientists because they will not be able to discover the cause of the explosion," he was quoted as saying.

NASA scientists analysing debris from the blast have yet to determine the cause of America's worst space disaster.

Mr. Tabet also forecasts a major U.S.-Soviet crisis in 1986, taking the world to the brink of nuclear war before being defused by "a

highly influential Soviet personality."

In 1987, Mr. Tabet predicts, U.S. President Ronald Reagan will be replaced by Vice-President George Bush, who will go on to lose the 1988 presidential elections to a Democrat.

Libya sends condolences

Meanwhile the Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported Thursday that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has sent condolences to families of the seven astronauts who died in the U.S. shuttle disaster, describing them as "victims of imperialist greed."

The agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), quoted Col. Qadhafi as saying: "I consider these victims to be victims of imperialist greed, as (President) Reagan wants to conquer space, and the purpose of the space programme is imperialist military expansion."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19		
MAIN CHANNEL		
16:00	Koran	
16:20	Cartoons	
16:25	Children programmes	
17:45	Play It Safe	
18:00	Offshore Strikes	
18:30	Local Series	
19:30	News Feature	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:15	Arabic Strides	
21:00	Local programme	
22:10	Arabic Film	
23:00	News in Arabic	
23:10	Film Continued	
FOREIGN CHANNEL		
18:00	French Programme: Ecole des Jans	
19:00	News in French	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Mind Your Language	
20:55	Starring the Actor	
21:20	Saturday Variety Show	
22:20	News in English	
22:30	Best Seller: The Sun Also Rises	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM & partly on 4760 KHz. SW Tel: 773111-19		
07:00	Light Music	
07:30	Newsdesk	
08:00	Morning Show	
10:00	News Summary	
10:05	Pop Session	
12:00	News Summary	
12:05	Pop Session	
13:00	News Summary	
13:05	Pop Session cont'd.	
14:00	News Bulletin	
14:10	Jordan Weekly	
14:30	Music	
15:00	Concert Hour	
16:00	News Summary	
16:30	Old Favourites	
17:00	Talking Points	
17:30	Animal Vegetable Matrix	
18:00	News Summary	
18:05	Top Twenty	
19:00	News	
19:05	Ding with a Star	
20:00	The 15th Century A.H.	
20:30	The Young Sound	
21:00	News Summary	
21:05	7 Years of Rock	
21:45	News Summary	
		THE BLUES
		News Summary
		Country Music
		News Headlines
		Close down
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz;		
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 That's The Trade 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:20 24 Hours: Britain 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Meridian 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the Wireless 09:40 World Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 A Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:50 Rock Around The World: The Music Business 12:00 News Summary; That's The 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 12:40 World News 12:50 News About Britain 12:55 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-four Hours: News Sum- mary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 Coun- try Style 16:00 World Summary 16:30 Saturday Special 16:45 Radio News 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Sat- urday Special 19:00 World News Summary; Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round- up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Baker's Hat Dozins 21:00 News Summary; Play of the Week: Lady Windemere's Fan 21:20 World News 21:59 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Jazz for the Ask- ing 23:00 News Summary; Hunter of the Day 23:15 World News 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 00:09 From our own Correspondent 00:30 News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Hillville USA		
VOICE OF AMERICA 1260 Mw, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz.		
06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Closeup 07:30 News Summary VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 A Wake-up 09:30 News Summary VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 This Week 10:30 Press Conference		

NEWS IN BRIEF

Office issues 2,400 permits in 10 days

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Labour Office has issued 2,400 work permits during the last ten days and has been able to find job opportunities for 2,000 Jordanian workers, Amman Labour Office Director Ahmad Al Shawabkeh has announced. He added that the office has been issuing about 300 permits a day following new regulations announced by the Labour Ministry, under which employers in the country were given a grace period ending on Feb. 27 to rectify their situations. Mr. Shawabkeh stressed that the office will not issue or renew work permits for administrative, financial, accounting, sales and secretarial posts.

CAEU chief meets Swiss ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Mahdi Al Obaidi Thursday reviewed with Swiss Ambassador in Amman Harold Bomer the efforts made by the CAEU to boost the economies of their respective countries. Mr. Bomer expressed satisfaction at the council's efforts and aspirations to achieve Arab economic unity and its continuous endeavours to develop economic integration.

TCC to disconnect unpaid phones

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will as of Sunday start disconnecting the telephones of defaulting telephone subscribers, according to the minister of communications and the TCC chairman of the board. He said that subscribers who have failed to pay their telephone bills, despite three appeals announced recently in the local papers and on television, will be disconnected. The minister said that most of the lines which will be disconnected will belong to subscribers who have not yet paid their phone bills up to 31/12/1984 in addition to those who failed to pay their telephone bills for 1985.

Lawzi receives Romanian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Ciurcovici Thursday discussed Jordanian-Romanian relations with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi. The Romanian ambassador conveyed to Mr. Lawzi a message from the Romanian people's council which expressed congratulations to Mr. Lawzi on being reappointed to his post for a second term.

Portuguese president praises King

LISBON (J.T.) — Portuguese President Antonio Eanes has paid tribute to efforts being exerted by His Majesty King Hussein for bringing about a just and durable peace in the Middle East region. The president was speaking at a ceremony for receiving the credentials of Mr. Tareq Madi as Jordan's new ambassador to Portugal. He said that his country hopes to make a contribution in concert with European Economic Community nations to help give momentum to the peace process which is being steered by His Majesty King Hussein.

Board discusses political life museum

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of trustees of the political life museum held a meeting on Thursday at Amman Municipality to discuss operational steps to establish the museum at the old parliament premises. During the meeting, it was agreed that a technical committee be formed to draw up ideas for the museum's display which will include all documents on political life in Jordan. The museum's board of trustees comprises Princess Wijdan Al-Husseini, Minister Mohammad Al-Khatib, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al-Rawabdeh, Dr. Adnan Al-Bakht, Dr. Waddah Al-Abidi and Mr. Salehman Mousa.

Unions prepare report on Arab labourers in West Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report prepared by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU) on Israeli violations and repressive measures against Arab labourers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has revealed that the working conditions of Arab labourers are deteriorating and that the wages paid to them are low compared to those paid to Israeli workers.

According to a story published Friday in the local Arab daily Al-Dustour, the federation's report said that the Israeli authorities provide good working conditions to Israeli workers while Arab labourers are employed in hard labour which lacks the basic requirements of occupational safety and health. The Arab labourers are always exposed to repressive measures and harassment by Israeli military authorities.

The Israeli authorities also absorb unemployment among Israeli labourers at the expense of Arab labourers and at the same time these authorities confiscate agricultural lands from Arab farmers, denying them their only source of income, it continued.

With regard to Israeli violations of trade union freedoms and rights in the West Bank, the report pointed out that the Israeli authorities are working towards deporting the leaders of trade unions and arresting and imprisoning dozens of other trade unionists.



ROYAL BIRTHDAY — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein, marked his 24th birthday on Thursday Jan. 30. Prince Abdullah has been serving in the Jordanian Armed Forces ever since his graduation from the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in the United Kingdom in 1981. He is now a captain, and takes part in all military activities and sports events carried out by the armed forces. Prince Abdullah has served as Regent on several occasions during King Hussein's visits abroad (J.T. file photo)

Jordan to switch back to Summer Time on April 4

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to switch back to Summer Time in April when clocks will be put forward 60 minutes in accordance with an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai.

The communiqué said that as of midnight on Friday April 4, 1986 clocks will be put forward by one hour and will be switched back on the first of October 1986. Last year Jordan switched to Summer Time in April and returned to Winter Time on Oct. 4. The six month Summer Time enabled the country to save nearly 20,000 tonnes of fuel estimated at JD 1 million, according to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Under Secretary Rashad Abu Ras. The switch to Summer Time was within the ministry's programme to rationalise energy consumption and, according to last year's estimates, demand for electricity in Jordan during the summer period dropped by six per cent.

YWCA assembly reviews activities

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) General Assembly Friday held a meeting at the association's premises during which the YWCA General Federation President Salwa Shweihat stressed the necessity for broadening the membership of the association and hailed the YWCA members in the occupied West Bank who were unable to attend the federation's meetings.

The federation's secretary general Laila Diab submitted a report about the federation's activities during last year with the focus on the regional workshop on income generating skills and cottage industries. Taking part in the workshop were members from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank representatives for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

(UNRWA) in addition to the Family Welfare Society and Catholic Relief Services for refugees.

Mrs. Diab also reviewed the federation's activities during International Youth Year (IYY) of 1985 and she announced the appointment of Lana Bisharat as youth coordinator in Jordan.

Conference in Denmark

Federation members Reem Najjar and Shadia Hamameh briefed participants on a Middle East conference, which was held in Denmark and which they attended. They said that it is very important that Jordanian youth participate in such conferences as these youth could brief youth throughout the world about their problems, concerns and aspiration and could also familiarise other youth with Jordan, Middle East issues and other subjects.

Such participation also aims at

briefing world youth on the Middle East and Palestinian question and the suffering of the Palestinian people, they noted.

At the end of the meeting a seminar was held during which Mrs. Buthaina Jardaneh, chairman of the consultancy services office of the Amman Business and Professional Women's Club reviewed women's role in development as mother's citizens and productive workers.

Mr. Jardaneh stressed that Jordanian laws and regulations have made men and women equal regarding their rights and duties and that any discrimination that remains between men and women can largely be attributed to illiteracy and unawareness about the laws.

She also said that the current five-year plan (1986-1990) has recognised the active role to be played by women and has made provisions for involving women in the decision-making process.

ARC announces JD 27.2m plan to modernise railway

AMMAN (Petra) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) is modernising its 279-kilometre railway in three stages at a cost of JD 27.2 million and the work is expected to be completed in two year's time, ARC Director General Mardi Al Qatamin said Friday.

Mr. Qatamin said that the first stage of the work entails modernising a 64-kilometre stretch of the line at a cost of JD 5.7 million, the second stage will be 101 kilometres at a cost of JD 10 million and the third stage 114 kilometres at a cost of JD 11.5 million.

The ARC has obtained loans from the World Bank and the treasury for implementing the project which is designed to improve transportation along the line and to increase its capacity for transporting phosphates and other goods from and to Aqaba. Mr. Qatamin said.

In addition, the ARC will purchase 90 trucks to transport phosphates from the mines in southern Jordan to the port city and will improve the railway signal systems, he continued. At present the corporation employs 1025 workers and employees to carry out maintenance along the rail road and on the locomotives and wagons. It also employs 180 experts, engineers and technicians to supervise these operations, Mr. Qatamin added.

Workshops

He went on to say that the ARC has no maintenance workshops of its own but added that the corporation has announced a tender for building workshops at Aqaba and work on the project is expected to start during 1986 and will

take two years to complete.

Along the 279 kilometre line, the ARC has set up 19 stations to carry out maintenance work on the line, the trains and the signals. Mr. Qatamin added. He said that the ARC now employs 60 Indian experts because the pay it offers local experts and engineers is not encouraging and further incentives should be offered to attract Jordanians. He said that the ARC also hopes to develop its own training centre and recruit local technicians.

The ARC last year transported nearly 2.5 million tonnes of phosphates from the Al Hassa mines to Aqaba for export but this year 2.7 million tonnes are expected to be carried by rail to the port city. Mr. Qatamin pointed out. He continued that the ARC collected JD 6 million in revenues last year but JD 3.5 million is to be paid as interest on loans acquired for improving ARC's work. He urged the government to allocate a special budget for ARC's operations and projects.

Iraqi industry minister leaves after signing charter for joint company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Minister of Light Industries Tarek Hamed Al Abdullah has left for Baghdad at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he signed the founding charter and administrative statute of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company.

The company's JD 20 million capital will be shared equally by Jordan and Iraq. The first project to be carried out by the joint company will be one for vegetable pickling and will be based in Iraq. The project will use Jordanian and Iraqi raw materials and ingredients, according to the Iraqi minister, who added that the products of the company will be primarily marketed in Iraq and Jordan.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Al Saqqaf said that several meetings between the two sides were held during the Iraqi minister's visit and he added that practical steps were endorsed for bringing the company into being. The joint company, he said, will use Jordanian vegetables at the pickling plant and will also process tomato paste and juice concentrates to supply other Jordanian and Iraqi companies with these products.

The Iraqi minister was seen off by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Al Munsheer, Mr. Saqqaf and other officials.

Jordanian nights in Britain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an innovative bid to promote Jordan's tourism and historical sites, British Airways (BA) in cooperation with the Tourism Authority (T.A.) will stage three traditional Jordanian nights in the cities of London, Manchester and Birmingham as of Feb. 4.

Mr. Gordon Almond, BA regional manager told a press conference on Thursday that this event comes in line with the airline's belief that Jordan is a developing tourist destination and that the number of tourists to Jordan could be increased four-fold.

"Jordan will be promoted as one of BA's 1986 six strongest destinations in the airline's yearly promotion campaign," Mr. Almond said and added that the British national carrier, in cooperation with three local British tour operators, has started selling Jordan through tourist brochures which include all necessary information on the country.

Sovereign Holidays, Jasmine Tours and Speedbird Holidays are three British tour operators who have coordinated with BA in both its 1986 promotion campaign and in their efforts to hold the three Jordanian nights.

These traditional nights will include a new tourism film on Jordan to be followed by a briefing from T.A. director general Nasri Atallah on the country's archaeological and touristic sites.

Dances, handicrafts

British tour operators will be invited to attend the three Jordanian nights.

danian nights will have the chance to obtain first-hand experience about Jordan's traditions and culture through a performance to be staged by the 10-member Madaba folklore troupe and a handicrafts show will be presented by four Jordanian artisans.

During the three-evenings, a tour operator competition will be organised based on a question sheet to be distributed among the guests, Mr. Almond said. They will have enough time to answer all questions on Jordan, from information they will obtain from presentation stands and the film they are to see, he explained. The prize will be two free invitations to Jordan.

Destination, stop-over

BA's 1986 promotion campaign on Jordan sells Jordan as a destination and/or as a stop-over between Egypt, Cyprus, the West Bank and Syria.

The Jordanian nights will also offer a sit-down dinner comprising of Arabic meals and Jordanian dishes in order to make the attraction as traditional as possible, Mr. Almond told reporters. In reply to a question, Mr. Almond said that BA does not intend to increase its weekly flights to Jordan, which at present number four. Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, "are our pool partners," he said and added that Alia's four weekly flights to London in addition to BA's four flights are adequate to "meet the market's capacity." Mr. Almond also noted that Jordan's promotion will fit well in BA's spring and autumn destination programmes.

Moves afoot to coordinate Jordan's health delivery system

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While the health delivery system in Jordan is quite different from that of most Western countries, it is in many ways similar to other countries in the Arab World. As in most Arab countries, Jordan has spent the last 20 years, implementing development projects in all sectors. This growth, although outstandingly successful in many areas, has resulted in poor coordination of efforts which is only now starting to be rationalised.

In 1939, the health budget for Trans-Jordan was JD 11,000 and 20 physicians were serving the entire population. The only two hospitals at that time were Italian hospitals (opened in 1927 in Amman and in 1935 in Karak), a small government hospital in a rented house in Jabal Amman and a private hospital which opened its services in 1924, known as the "Asi El Argia Hospital", or "Limping Lady Hospital", from the handicap of its founder. In 1945, Malhas Hospital started as the first completely private hospital. The majority of the population were still seeking medical care in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.

On Dec. 24, 1950, the first Ministry of Health was established with Dr. Jamil Tountout as the first minister of health. Things began rolling as the 52 physicians working in 10 hospitals in 1951 grew to 169 by 1965 and the number of hospitals rose to 21.

The table below shows the progress in the health sector from 1961 to 1984.

As in other Arab countries, Jordan's health services are delivered by a number of sectors. Without even nearing the situation in Saudi Arabia, where 13

government agencies as well as a thriving private sector are responsible for delivering health care, Jordan has nonetheless suffered in the past from a lack of coordination and control of health services which is common in other Arab countries.

Health deliverers

Those responsible for the delivery of health care in Jordan are the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, the University of Jordan, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the private sector. By definition, the Ministry of Health is supposed to cover all the inhabitants of the country, providing its services almost free of charge. The Royal Medical Services are responsible for the employees of the Armed Forces and Security departments as well as for the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Alia, including all their relatives and dependants free of charge.

The Ministry of Health's main duty is to deliver primary health care, although secondary health care (care given in general hospitals) and tertiary health care (specialised care) are also offered. The Ministry of Health, however, has been publicly accused of low standards, especially in tertiary care.

The Royal Medical Services does not consider primary health care as their priority, although they care for the general health of the military troops, especially in field hospitals. They offer excellent secondary and tertiary care, particularly at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman.

The University of Jordan's basic duty is to prepare and train medical students and nurses. Its hospital, however, has gone beyond the role of a training premises. It

provides secondary and tertiary care to about 120,000 patients per year and it is used as a referral hospital for the Ministry of Health.

The private sector covers an estimated 15-20 per cent of the population providing good secondary care and, quite recently, excellent tertiary care in a number of hospitals. UNRWA cares for Palestinian refugees from the occupied territories.

Current services

The report presented with the new five-year plan showed that at present the Ministry of Health has 162 primary health centres, 244 village clinics, 100 mother and child health centres, 15 school health care groups, 18 chest care centres and 56 dental clinics. The primary health centres vary from the most primitive centres visited by travelling doctors to the newly-constructed comprehensive health centres. Last year, 5.3 million patients benefited from all the centres listed above.

Patients cared for in out patient clinics or hospitals during the last year amounted to 900,000 for the Ministry of Health, 700,000 for the Royal Medical Services, 120,000 for the University Hospital and 106,000 for the private sector.

These figures, approximate since the main problem of lack of coordination between these health delivery sources means that there is an overlap in services, resulting in both loss of effort and loss of money.

In an effort to specify the different roles of the health delivery sectors and to avoid a duplication of efforts, Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai formed a Supreme Medical Council, chaired by himself, with the main purpose of planning health



The government is taking steps to avoid any duplication of services and lack of coordination in the health delivery system (J.T. file photo)

Supreme Medical Council

The new five-year plan will revise this council, which will have power by law to approve all plans concerning health and to deal with the different sectors. It will provide the health sector with an unified command from the top on all areas of health.

The five-year plan pointed out that one of the main problems in the past has been a lack or weakness in the area of administration on all levels, particularly at the Ministry of Health. The Royal Medical Services were the exception with a very good hospital administration during the past 15 years, including training in this field.

"At present, everyone is his own boss in the health sector in Jordan, rarely helping each other or intermingling," Mr. Gaith Shubailat told the Jordan Times. Dr. Shubailat, a private plastic surgeon who has worked for 25 years in the Royal Medical Services and was part of the five-year plan committee, explained that a recent research and study conducted by Brigadier Naji Ajlouni of the Royal Medical Services showed the need for an executive committee overseeing the health field which should be composed of one health planner, one systems analyst, one economist, one statistician and a computer programmer. This committee would do all the preparatory work and

Health insurance scheme

The establishment of a national health insurance scheme, discussed at the beginning of 1985 but delayed for lack of finances, was also brought up again as part of the five-year plan. This scheme, besides the obvious benefit of helping a larger section of the population to meet health costs, will also help define the roles to be played by the different sectors.

The five-year plan proposed that the Ministry of Health would be concerned only with primary health care, health environment, public health and with controlling the standards of all other sectors. The Royal Medical Services should concern itself only with giving medical care to the Armed Forces and supplying highly sophisticated tertiary medicine using the already available facilities.

The universities will restrict their roles to teaching and conducting medical research. The University of Jordan Hospital will be then treated as a private hospital to provide an income for teaching purposes.

The private sector was recognized as essential to the country and will operate under the umbrella of the insurance health scheme. The health committee gave particular emphasis to this scheme in their presentation of the five-year plan and maintains strong hopes for a speedy fulfillment of these guidelines.

Desert Highway project way behind schedule

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works says that only 31 per cent of a JD 16 million road project along the Desert Highway between Jweish and Swaqa has been completed as opposed to the terms of a contract which stipulated that 51 per cent should be completed early this year.

If the project had been divided into three parts and carried out by three contractors at the same time

there would not be any need to delay the road's completion until the second half of 1987, the ministry's under secretary Khalaf Al Hawari said during an inspection visit to the section of road.

The project entails building a four-lane road stretching for 55 kilometres between the two points along the Desert Highway with the purpose of facilitating the movement of heavy lorries during

the winter season, Mr. Hawari said.

The inspection tour also took Mr. Hawari to an interchange being built on the road to the Queen Alia International Airport, and which is now nearing completion. He also inspected side roads off the highway on which work is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

U.S. voices urgency over Mideast peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

contradict our basic policy and principle of not allowing anything to happen to diminish Israel's qualitative military edge in the region."

Five days of intensive talks in Amman between King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on reviving Middle East peace moves have so far been inconclusive, according to Palestinian and diplomatic sources.

There has been no official word from the Jordanian government or the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the talks.

"The talks have so far been inconclusive, but this doesn't mean they have broken down," Palestinian sources were quoted as saying by Reuters. "The two sides will continue their efforts in days to come," the sources added.

"The talks have yielded very little result," a Western diplomat who has been closely watching the

discussions told Reuters.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai briefed the cabinet on Thursday on the King's talks with Mr. Arafat, but it gave no details.

There was no official confirmation from Jordan, the PLO or the U.S. embassy of an American plan which envisages giving the PLO a seat in future peace talks if it let non-PLO Palestinians attend initial talks on the proposed conference.

A State Department official told the Jordan Times on Wednesday Washington would in turn freeze its demand that the PLO accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 until a joint Jordanian and non-PLO Palestinian team had negotiated with the U.S. and Israel on terms for convening the conference.

"The PLO would be invited to accept the U.N. resolutions in return for a seat at the conference,"

said the official.

On Thursday, State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb denied the Jordan Times report.

Contending that the report was "fanciful and speculative," Kalb said "the thrust of this report is inaccurate."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Thursday accused Mr. Arafat of destroying the chances for peace in the Middle East and urged Palestinians to join peace negotiations without him.

"If the Palestinians are in search of a solution for themselves, they have to take their destiny in their own hands," Peres told a World Jewish Congress assembly Thursday.

Peres, following a European tour that focused on peace efforts, contended that Mr. Arafat was the main obstacle to peace talks.

"The Palestinians have to make a choice. It is a simple choice — either the PLO without a solution or a solution without the PLO," he said.

Mr. Arafat was in Amman on Friday.

Two leading Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza arrived in Amman on Friday in connection with talks between Jordan and the PLO.

Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme and Jerusalem newspaper editor Hanna Saniya, were reportedly chosen last year by Jordan and the PLO as delegates from their areas to any future Middle East peace conference.

Israel expels 3 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

be charged shortly, had a criminal record, Israeli police contended. They have claimed that the killing of Biazzi was linked to robberies in East Jerusalem.

Biazzi was responsible for police intelligence in the Jerusalem area.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said two men drew up in a car alongside Biazzi's unmarked

FIAT and pumped about 30 automatic rifle shots into it. Two passengers in another car were slightly injured.

A statement issued in Beirut in the name of the dissident Palestinian Abu Nidal group on Thursday claimed responsibility for the Biazzi killing and ambushes that killed two Israelis in the occupied West Bank and the Jerusalem area.

Channel 6 preview

Television and Truth

By J.A. Boteler

It is hard to determine ultimate truth. It is even harder to determine what is true and what is not. It is the duty of the media to report the truth, but it is also the duty of the media to report what is true and what is not. The media is a powerful force in our society, and it is important that we understand its role and its limitations. The media is not a neutral observer; it is a participant in the events it reports. It is important that we understand this and that we use the media wisely.

Comedies

Moving on to lighter things, we find another adventure involving the polyglot cast of *Mind Your Language*, (tonight). A pleasant river cruise down the Thames for the class is endangered by a drunken Henshaw, junior and surgeon of Mr. Brown. "The Birthday Party" is the title of Sunday episode of *The Cabbage Patch*. So, Lillian and Amanda are fast becoming bosom buddies; wonders will never cease. A test of this strange alliance arises this week since Lillian is all of a tremble that someone at her upcoming party will blurt out the shameful truth that she is seventy years old. She should worry. The sympathy and pity Ruth, next-door neighbour, is mortified to find that her beloved son John, (who is even more repellant than Matthew Barton, if only because he is more true to life), has contracted head-lice; but then like-minded souls tend to stick together. I don't suppose any of these trials and tribulations are ever likely to disturb the happy existence of Carol Burnett and Friends, which is the new comedy series scheduled for Monday. The little information that I can glean about this is that it concerns a husband and wife and a boss and his secretary. Whether this means a cast list of four, three or even two people I am unsure, but I can tell you that in 1984 Miss Burnett was voted one of the ten most-admired women in the U.S. Tuesday has *That's My Boy* and the wedding

episode I erroneously informed you about last week. "Doctor In The House" is the title of *Three's Company* (Wednesday), in which Jack's amazing penchant for lying catches up with him yet again. This time it's his grandfather, believing that Jack is an eminent doctor, Shinfeld may not be an eminent doctor, but he certainly is a caring one, and more evidence of this is given in *Emergency Room* on Thursday. On Friday Mr. Belvedere keeps calm head whilst all around him are losing theirs.

Documentaries

Apart from "End Of Empire" there are two of these. Starting *The Actors* has been moved to tonight to accommodate Ms. Burnett and this week discusses the fantasy world of the celluloid screen with the quirky and highly-talented Cissy Spacek. "It's a wonderful thing to be an actor. You get to do these outrageous things and then you're rewarded for it." If she can tolerate the rather obnoxious interviewer, who is forever giving his questions inverted commas with his hands then we can see Sissy being powerful in "Badlands", terrifying in "Carrie" and winning an Oscar in "Coal Miner's Daughter". Wednesday night sees the start of a new four-part series entitled *Ancient Lives*, which recreates daily life in ancient Egypt. The first programme introduces the village of Deir El Medina, home of the craftsmen who made the royal tombs in the Valley of Kings. Presenter John Romer, (and he is a distinguished archaeologist who has spent many years in Egypt, and so his conclusions are probably more reliable than James Burke's were in "Connections"), explains how it is that we have such a detailed record of everyday life in ancient Egypt. Through the tombs they painted, the graffiti they scribbled and the notes they wrote on stone it is possible to build up a picture of how ordinary people lived then. The programme also explains how the village fitted into the life of ancient Thebes, then the capital of Egypt. Among the sites visited are Tutankhamen's tomb and his gold mask in the Cairo museum; the temple of Deir El Bahari — considered by many to be the most beautiful of all the Egyptian temples — the village tomb of Ipy filled with scenes of everyday life and the tombs of Kha in Thebes, a tomb to rank with Tutankhamen's in importance but filled not with gold, but with everyday objects of an ordinary Egyptian from an age when Stonehenge was just being built. Mr. Romer also explains how the tombs were built and how their design changed from the austere style of Thutmose III to the rich colours of the tomb of Hor-mahab.

In Queensland, nature has its way, and man must learn to adapt to it

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — It is a huge state with a large city of 750,000 residents. It has extensive resort development with high-rise condominium buildings. It has plants, animals, gold, copper, and lead come out of the ground in large quantities. There are three international airports, and a major national park that is the key to a large tourist industry.

But to touch the soul of Queensland, Australia's second-largest state, it is best to turn inland, away from the airports and the Great Barrier Reef national park and the tourists who bring in 3.5 billion Australian dollars a year.

Schooling by radio

It is best to turn toward the isolated but immense cattle stations, where a moderate-size spread contains 600,000 acres and a truly large one may have 2 million acres, where "next door" more often than not is a brave journey away and schooling is conducted by radio, with a schoolteacher beginning, "Good morning, class. Over."

William S. Ellis went inland from the scenic Queensland coast, and reports on his visit in the January National Geographic. This "big shoulder of land on Australia's east" he found is "not about to be overtaken by tiny civilisation." In Queensland nature has no alternative; it is too much with this place.

The two overwhelming aspects of Queensland are its size and its emptiness.

"Queensland is so big (its borders will hold four Jupiters with room to spare) and so empty in the middle that to venture there is to evoke the pioneering spirit," Ellis writes. It contains about 22 per cent of Australia's landmass, most of it without human presence. The state's 1,727,000 square kilometres support a population of 2.5 million people, including the 750,000 who live in Brisbane, its capital. What it lacks in people, it makes up in cattle: there are 9 million of them, down from 11 million a decade ago, before drought and economic slumps led to using ranch land for other purposes, such as the growing of wheat.

Still, plenty of cattle remain, enough to constitute nearly half the nation's total, enough to enable Queenslanders to export 300,000 tons of meat annually to overseas markets, principally the United States and Japan.

Helicopter cowboys

But the size of Queensland and many of its cattle stations forces cowboys to resort to techniques never dreamed of by Hollywood scriptwriters. On those large sta-

tions, the helicopter is used to master cattle. "It beats low over the scrub, setting hooves to stamping, stirring the bile in a rank bull," Ellis reports. "Sometimes the pilot will put a load in the hide of an animal to get it moving (there has been at least one complaint of metal found in beef processed in Queensland), and if, in the end, the beast stands his ground, he is killed with a shot from a powerful .44 magnum."

Among Queensland's human population are more than 50,000 Aborigines, the largest population of indigenous peoples of any state in Australia. Militancy among them is on the rise, Ellis says, and the national government has adopted a policy of returning traditional Aboriginal lands to the people. But Queensland's powerful state government opposes this, preferring to keep Aborigines on state reserves.

Just as the Aborigines are Queensland's oldest residents, its newest residents are Australians from other states, moving in at the rate of 1,000 a month. They come, says Ellis, for the sun, warmth, the sea, and low taxes. Yet, a cultural gap remains.

Reef of wonder

"This living thing has continued to grow for thousands of years," Ellis says of the reef, "and to see it, to touch it, to be in awe of its beauty and in fear of its perils is an uncommon experience."

So it is with much of Queensland. Though the human population keeps growing, there is still abundant elbow room, and there are still enough kangaroos to permit a harvest of a million each year.

Unusual hazards confront duffers and expert golfers alike as they approach the fourth green at the Yepoon Golf Club on the east coast of the Australian state of Queensland. Enough kangaroos remain to provide a harvest of a million each year, but this



When you're down, you're down. Tender Is The Night, Monday at 9:30

Detectives, drama and songs

Only two of the first this week, since "Dempsey And Makepeace" have taken an enforced sabbatical (more of which anon). But there's good news for Tuesday since ITV have decided to push ahead with the standard episodes of *The Equaliser* rather than waiting the proverbial month of Sundays for the missing pilot. So, thrill to mild-mannered Edward Woodward prowling the mean streets of Manhattan, helping old ladies across the street and ventilating the craniums of trespassers. Friday has the irrepressible Hunter who gives chase to a crazed biker-killer who makes the bad mistake of killing a fellow-cop.

Drama sees the penultimate episode of *Tender Is The Night* on Monday. Just when I was beginning to get a bit tired with the slow pace of this it erupted with Nicole having a screaming fit and attempting to get everyone killed in a car crash and Dick being accused of improper conduct by one of his patients, the whimsically named Helen of Troy. Rest assured that we have not heard the last of this. This week finds our heroes in Rome, but I would be surprised if there is much evidence of La Dolce Vita. Dick turns to the bottle for comfort. Rosamory Hoyt turns up again like the proverbial bad penny, and things get generally rather grim. As for *A Fortunate Life*, well — hasn't he grown? One moment a curly-haired tot, the next our Bert is a strapping lad of twenty-one. His visit to Mum in Perth is not very successful, and Bert takes to cattle-driving, and doubtless another string of disasters. And disaster it is that is threatening in *The Far Pavilions* (Friday), with the two sisters married off to a decrepit old goat and Ben Cross glowering most darkly.

A rewarding sight last Monday

in Dallas: J.R. slung into the boosegown. The question of course is: how did he get there? Has Holly done the dirty on him? Is this what Holly meant when she promised him a night he would never forget? Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Lucy's possible future mother-in-law is not at all sure about the wisdom of the suggested nuptials, and looking around the assorted components of her future relations by marriage one can hardly blame her. It seems impossible to have Bobby and Cliff Barnes in the same room together without them squaring off against each other. This week at Falcon Crest, (Wednesday) looks like it could be the night of the two lawyers, since Erikson is attempting to get Julia adjudged insane and Chase's finds out what the evil Doc has been up to with his client. And over in Australia, in Thursday's episode of *Return To Eden* stalwart and plucky Steph decides to return to work and keep a beady eye on her sister.

Mini-series and feature films

Now you know what happened to "Dempsey And Makepeace": it got shelved to make room for this month's mini-series which is a four-hour adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. "The rich are different from us," remarked F. Scott Fitzgerald once to Hemingway, who replied: "Yes, they've got more money," which may give a clue to how Ernest will treat the world and times handled elsewhere in "Tender Is The Night." Much the same sort of scenario, what with rich Americans gambling around Europe in the company of English aristocrats in a saga which stars Jane Seymour and Hart Bochner. There is also more than a suggestion of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" since the plot-line involves

'Modernisation' brings traffic jams, death to China

By Graham Earnshaw

Reuter

PEKING — The flood of cars and trucks on to China's roads in the past two or three years has added two more marks of "modernisation" to the country — traffic jams and a soaring road death toll.

China has imported hundreds of thousands of vehicles since 1982, almost all of them from Japan, and although a temporary import ban has been imposed to conserve foreign exchange, growing domestic production will keep numbers rising.

But unfortunately, China was completely unprepared for this four-wheeled invasion.

The king of the road in China's crowded cities until the early 1980s was the bicycle — there are 200 million in China — but the hordes of cyclists now have to weave their way through increasingly heavy flows of motor traffic.

The cities of Peking and Shanghai, with roads unable to cope with the sudden influx of vehicles, now experience frequent, serious traffic jams.

Only expensive, long-term construction projects will fully solve the problem," the official China Daily observed last month.

Even worse is the increasing carnage on China's roads, caused largely by inexperienced drivers and a lack of awareness amongst cyclists and pedestrians about what cars can do people when they hit them.

China does not issue overall road toll figures, but the statistics that have been revealed indicate China and the internal combustion engine are not getting along well.

The Workers Daily reported that the number of traffic accidents last year was up a huge 70 per cent on 1984 and said rural truck-drivers were largely to blame.

In the northeast province of Liaoning — population 35 million — an average of two people die on the roads each day. In Shanghai (population 12 million) about 70 die each month.

Peking had more than 700 road deaths last year. In comparison, Hong Kong had 322 road fatalities in 1984 although it has about the same number of vehicles as Peking — 300,000.

These statistics are particularly alarming considering the tiny number of motor vehicles on China's roads compared with Western countries.

Amongst the worst offenders are trucks and taxis drivers, and the official press had acknowledged that some truck drivers do not have driving licences.

There is a major debate in progress about whether road transport should be developed to replace the railway network which at present links most of China together.

An article in the China Daily recently came out strongly against the idea, pointing that highways are not only more expensive than railway lines to build, but also take up far more of China's precious arable land.

"China should not adopt a strategy of developing private cars as the major commuting means, much less the development of motorways for freight transport," the paper said.

Air pollution in China's cities seems to be getting worse, partly due to the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads.

China has, however, avoided the mistake of many other Asian cities and stopped the motorbike from gaining a foothold.

Only a few motorbikes are to be seen and the authorities have placed restrictions on their importation and local manufacture. "It's a good thing," said one foreign resident. "If every cyclist in Peking exchanged his bicycle for a motorbike, they would have to evacuate the city."

Devoted Catholics oppose Pope's 'pompous' visit to India's poor

By Andrew Tarnowski

Reuter

TRIVANDRUM, India — Huge crowds will welcome Pope John Paul to India this month, but a handful of Catholic radicals causing a stir in the Indian church say his visit will be a meaningless and costly display of ceremony.

"He's coming to such a poor country with such pomp and preparation," said Sister Philomena Marie, who works among impoverished fishermen in southern Kerala state and has gone on hunger strike to champion their rights. All over India the Roman and Syrian Catholic churches are collecting money from the 12 million faithful to spruce up churches and bishops' palaces, and build huge podiums at which the Pope will celebrate a single mass.

Many destitute faithful will go barefoot to see the Pope. Fishermen in Kerala, who live hand-to-mouth from daily catches, say they will go hungry on the day.

"I don't see it as a meaningful event for the church," the frail, 55-year-old nun told Reuters. "My God, I am not interested in going into such crowds to see him."

Activists want the church to identify with their struggle for "justice" for the poor. They fear the Pope's visit may strengthen the hold of conservative clerics on their devout but destitute communities.

Philomena Marie's 1984 fast with 30 priests, nuns and lay people of the radical "Fishermen's Movement" lasted 23 days despite church opposition and caused a furor among Catholics.

It was the high point of a campaign, begun by priests and nuns five years ago, for welfare aid for Kerala's 100,000 fishermen and their 600,000 dependents, and for a ban on trawlers which strip fish stocks from their coastal waters.

Most fishermen live at subsistence level. Many are Roman Catholics but their material needs have been ignored by the church for centuries.

Today, the activists' impact on the Indian churches is being compared with that of "Liberation Theology" in Latin America, from which they say they draw encouragement, but which is viewed with suspicion by the Pope.

"The fishermen's agitation and Liberation Theology is a turning point for the Indian church," Jesuit historian Edward Hamby told Reuters in New Delhi. "Many Catholics have taken up this attitude."

Bishops and activists, however, do not see eye-to-eye on the Pope's visit. "This is a very poor country

When shock of Challenger wears off, questions will start

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After the shock of the terrifying explosion seen by millions on their television screens and the mourning for the seven victims, the space programme is certain to enter a new period of questioning.

President Ronald Reagan addressed the inevitable doubts last Tuesday when he compared the challenger crew to history's great explorers, people who braved danger and the unknown because they "had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths."

The president vowed to "continue our quest in space. There will be more Shuttle flights and more Shuttle crews and, yes, more volunteers, more civilians, more teachers in space."

But even with Reagan's determination to press ahead, a resolve likely to be shared by a majority in Congress, many questions, both technical and of a policy nature, will demand answers.

Most immediate will be the question of what caused the Shuttle to explode Tuesday, 75 seconds after its launch from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Its crew of seven — six astronauts and a schoolteacher — died.

Americans have grown accustomed to delays in Shuttle launches, countdowns held up by technical problems, sometimes by the weather. But in the end the Shuttles took off, and 24 times they completed their missions safely. They became almost routine in the public mind.

Then the 25th ended in tragedy. The nation was stunned by an unpredictable event, a shocking moment brought home by vivid images on television screens, replayed again and again.

A graceful launch into a perfect blue sky, a wondrous display of power and technology. Suddenly

the explosion, a ball of fire, clouds of smoke, debris raining down on the ocean. For those watching at the scene or on television it was a paralyzing moment as all eyes strained to scan the sky, hoping for some sign that the crew could have survived.

From Capitol Hill there was announcement of plans to investigate the tragedy but also expressions of grief and of support for the continuation of the space effort.

Space Agency officials were conducting their investigation, gathering all available data as well as the pieces of debris in an effort to come up with answers.

The search for technical answers will be accompanied by a debate over whether the Shuttle programme is ready for civilian passengers. As the nation learned, the Shuttle is not as routine as it had come to seem.

One of the victims on Tuesday was schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, chosen from thousands of applicants to be the first civilian in space. It was on Aug. 27, 1984, during his re-election campaign, that the president announced that the first civilian in space would be a teacher.

"When that Shuttle lifts off, all America will be reminded of the crucial role, teachers and education play in the life of our nation. I can't think of a better lesson for the children of our country," he said.

Tragedy forced the president to address schoolchildren Tuesday with far different words than he would have liked:

"I know it's hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted, it belongs to the brave."

India stays alive with victory over Australia

MELBOURNE (R) — Dilip Vengsarkar, with a hard-hit 77 not out, led India to a six-wicket win over Australia Friday to extend at least until Sunday their interest in the World Series Cup one-day cricket competition.

India reached 238 for four from 48.5 overs after Australia, who won the toss, made 235 for seven from their 50 overs, a relatively modest total following an opening stand of 146 by Geoff Marsh and David Boon.

India play New Zealand in the last preliminary match in Launceston, Tasmania, on Sunday with the winners going through to the best-of-three final series against Australia starting on Wednesday.

India reached 238 for four from 48.5 overs after Australia, who won the toss, made 235 for seven from their 50 overs, a relatively modest total following an opening stand of 146 by Geoff Marsh and David Boon.

India were in danger of becoming bogged down until Kapil Dev joined Vengsarkar in a vigorous fourth-wicket stand that added 49 from 38 balls. They came together when Sunil Gavaskar, who made 72 in 171 minutes, was third out at 181 and the asking rate had risen to seven runs an over.

Kapil Dev was out for 23 but

India then needed only six runs to win with time on their side and Vengsarkar, whose 77 came off 88 balls, saw them home.

Australia's total fell short of expectations after Boon, whose 76 came from 102 balls, and Marsh, 74 from 107 balls, gave them their flying start.

Leg-spinner Shivaramakrishnan was hit out of the attack, conceding 52 from eight overs, and Mohammed Azharuddin was called on to perform a rare bowling stint. He started well, his first seven overs of gentle medium pace costing only 25, but by the end of his 10 overs had given away 54 runs.

Kapil Dev bowled nine immaculate overs, taking four for 30.



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein presided over an awards ceremony Friday following the final match of the 1985 Premier League soccer season. Prince Abdullah presented the 1985 Premier Cup to the coach of Al Faisali soccer club, the 1985 League Champions, and awarded gold medals to each member of Al Faisali. In Friday's final match at Amman International Stadium Al Faisali defeated Amman 2-0. The match and awards ceremony were attended by Minister of Youth Hisham Sharara, the chairman of the Jordan Soccer Federation, and other government officials (Petra photo)

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of basketball games played 31 January

Juniors		
Lego 30		Istiklal Library 14
Jordan Express 36		International Traders 20
Mids		
Near East Equipment 28		Intercon 26
Volvo 21		Astra 18
Marriott 42		Peugeot 5
Seniors		
Cairo Amman 31		Sakura 21
Al Ahlyah 35		Joliff 34

Olajuwon blocks shot to save game for Houston

NEW YORK (AP) — Akeem Olajuwon normally doesn't venture away from the basket on defense, but with four seconds to go and Houston leading by two points, he decided that the time was right.

The 7-foot center for the Rockets blocked an 18-foot shot by Sacramento's 6-10 Lasalle Thompson with four seconds to go Thursday night, preserving a 111-109 NBA victory over the Kings.

"Akeem was out in shallow water," Houston coach Bill Fitch said. "Normally he plays back in deeper water on defense."

"I saw him coming up and I tried to put some arch on the ball," said Thompson, who had 17 rebounds but was held to seven points. "If I had gotten it off with the arch he wouldn't have blocked it."

Lewis Lloyd led Houston with 26 points, while Ralph Sampson had 23 points and 10 rebounds. Olajuwon finished with 19 points and John Lucas accounted for 14 assists.

Mike Woodson topped the Kings with 26 points and Eddie Johnson had 20.

In other games, it was Seattle 92, New Jersey 82; Boston 101, Chicago 91; San Antonio 112, Cleveland 99; Denver 102, New York 97; Milwaukee 120, Golden State 108; and Los Angeles Lakers 118, Portland 94.

Celtics 101, Bulls 91

Boston won its ninth consecutive game and improved its NBA-best record to 34-8 as Larry Bird scored 26 points and Robert Parish added 22 points and 16 rebounds.

Sidney Green had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead Chicago, which played without leading scorer Orlando Woolridge because of an injured wrist. All-star forward Kevin McHale missed the game with a sore achilles tendon.

Lakers 118, Blazers 94

Kareem Abdul Jabbar scored 25 points and James Worthy and Byron Scott added 20 each as Los Angeles rolled to victory over Portland, its closest Pacific Division rival. Kiki Vandeweghe led the Trail Blazers with 25 points.

Bucks 120, Warriors 108

Milwaukee handed Golden State its eighth consecutive loss. Eric Floyd led all scorers with 30 points for Golden State, while Terry Cummings had 26, Sidney Moncrief 23 and Paul Pressey 20 for Milwaukee.

Supersonics 89, Nets 82

Seattle snapped a nine-game road losing streak as Al Wood scored 25 points.

Denmark await World Cup debut

By Jan Lund

COPENHAGEN — With their squad of wonderfully gifted players and band of exuberantly friendly fans, Denmark should be a delightful addition to the World Cup Finals in Mexico this June.

The World Cup needs players such as Martin Olsen, Michael Laudrup, Preben Elkjaer, Jesper Olsen and the fervent Danish supporters deserve to be part of the Mexican fiesta.

Though their red and white painted faces tend to give them a slightly intimidating look, the Danish following are warm and generous — embarrassingly so at times in bars and restaurants.

Last year they were awarded a special distinction by the Paris-based International Committee for Fair Play for their good behaviour during the 1984 European Championship in France.

The committee said the 20,000 Danish fans had shown it was possible to support a team and give fair treatment to their opponents at the same time.

The Danish team have also attracted a host of admirers and have been labelled the "European Brazilians." While that is overstating their prowess, there is no doubt they are the most exciting team to emerge in Europe since The Netherlands of the early 1970s.

Thus, although drawn in the toughest first phase group alongside West Germany, Uruguay and Scotland, Denmark will pose a considerable threat in Mexico.

Though Denmark were one of the seven founder members of FIFA in 1904, the Danes were a third-rate football power until recent years and their first World

Cup Finals appearance can be traced back to two important events in 1971 and 1978.

Until 1971, Denmark's amateur regulations were such that even former professionals who returned home to the non-paid ranks were banned from international football.

The national association (DBU) relaxed that rule and seven years later engaged their first full-time national coach — West German Sepp Piontek.

Under Piontek, an advocate of attacking football, Denmark's fortunes have flourished and although they failed to reach the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain they had the compensation of beating eventual champions Italy in a pre-tournament friendly international.

But it was only in 1984 that the Danes really burst on the scene when they beat England at Wembley to qualify for the 1984 European Championship finals.

The Danes were both a surprise and delight to many in the Finals in France where they went out in the semifinal stage to eventual runners-up Spain after a cruel penalty shoot-out.

Despite the pressures of the World Cup qualifying competition, Denmark continued their attacking policy and headed group six in front of the Soviet Union, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland.

And although they thrashed Ireland 4-1 in Dublin and Norway 5-1 in Oslo, it was the style of their 4-2 win over the Russians, who will also be in Mexico, which should act as a warning to the other 23 finalists.

Piontek, 45, refuses to accept

the credit he deserves at times and summed up Denmark's arrival among football's superpowers by saying: "As in The Netherlands in the 1970s, a generation of gifted Danish players has emerged."

The key figure in Piontek's team is 37-year-old sweeper and captain Morten Olsen, who plays for Belgian champions Anderlecht.

Morten Olsen has played in every position except goalkeeper during his long career and holds the Danish record of 76 international appearances.

Other world class players are the deadly "Italian" duo Elkjaer and Laudrup. Elkjaer, who helped Verona to the league title in his first season in Italy, scored eight of Denmark's 17 goals in the qualifying tournament and stands fourth on the Danish all-time scorers' list, with 32 goals in 53 matches.

Laudrup, 21, in outstanding form with Juventus, could make a major impact in Mexico and has already scored 18 goals in 27 internationals.

From May 17 to the end of the month the Danes will stay in Bogota, which offers high-altitude training in Mexican-type temperatures, where they will meet Colombia.

Four other warm-up games are planned against Northern Ireland in Belfast on March 26, Bulgaria in Sofia on April 9, Norway in Oslo on May 13 and Poland in Copenhagen on May 16.

In Mexico the team will stay at a quiet hotel in Queretaro, preferring the 210 kilometre drive to the Neza Stadium for the first matches against Scotland and Uruguay to the traffic jams, pollution and noise in Mexico City.

UEFA imposes disciplinary measures

BERNE (R) — Italian club AC Milan will have to play their next UEFA Cup match behind closed doors following crowd trouble during their tie against Waregem of Belgium on December 11, European soccer's governing body UEFA said Friday.

The Club has until February 3 to appeal against the judgement, which bars all but technical personnel, match officials and 70-strong delegations from each club on the ground.

A Waregem player and a linesman were slightly hurt when Italian supporters pelted them with oranges and other objects. Milan lost the third round second leg clash 2-1 and went out of the competition on aggregate.

UEFA also announced the following disciplinary measures:

A \$2,970 fine for Sporting Lisbon of Portugal for a late start to their European Cup match against Athletic Bilbao on November 27.

A \$2,970 fine for Hajduk Split of Yugoslavia after fireworks were thrown during their UEFA Cup match with Dnepropetrovsk of the Soviet Union on December 11.

A \$1,238 fine for Real Madrid for rockets fired by fans during their UEFA Cup match against Borussia Moenchengladbach of West Germany on November 27.

A \$370 fine for Borussia Moenchengladbach for the firing of a firework in the same November 27 match against Real.

A \$493 fine for Honved Bud-

apest for breaking advertising rules during their European Cup match against Shamrock Rovers of Ireland on Oct. 2.

Rafael Gordillo of Real Madrid — sent off during the November 27 game — Rui Jordao of Sporting Lisbon — sent off during the Nov. 27 tie against Athletic Bilbao — and Alexander Bubnov of Spartak Moscow were banned for three, one and two matches respectively.

UEFA also said it was giving officials and players from Verona until Feb. 15 to comment on remarks allegedly made by them and reported in the Italian press about French referee Robert Wurtz after the European Cup match against fellow Italians Juventus.

Lendl, Connors win in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Top seeds Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors led the way with victories Thursday as the field for the \$375,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championships was reduced to the final eight.

The top-seeded Lendl, looking for his first title here after two runner-up finishes to John McEnroe, continued to dominate with a mixture of powerful groundstrokes and serves as he overpowered 16th-seeded American Greg Holmes 6-2, 6-2.

The 33-year-old Connors, who along with the absent McEnroe and retired Australian great Rod Laver is a four-time winner of this 25-year-old event, gained the quarterfinals over 22-year-old Yugoslav Slobodan Zivojinovic 6-1, 7-6 (7-2).

Lendl, winner of 37 of his last 38 Grand Prix matches and six tournaments out of seven, was simply head and shoulders above his opponent.

"I felt I was on the run the whole time," said Holmes, who managed just six points in each set off Lendl's serve. "He hits the ball too hard for me."

Lendl, 25, said: "I feel I have more confidence. Anytime there is a close situation when I really

need to concentrate and play well, I do. That's what the game is all about."

In the quarterfinals, Lendl will meet eighth-seeded American Paul Annacone, while number two seed Connors takes on seventh-seeded fellow-American Tim Mayotte.

The 22-year-old Annacone advanced against ninth-seeded Andres Gomez when the Ecuadorian left-hander was forced to retire with an ailing left shoulder.

Mayotte reached the final eight by defeating unseeded compatriot Marty Davis 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

The Connors-Zivojinovic match provided an entertaining 85 minutes of tennis.

"He's got a good personality. He smiles on the court. He makes it enjoyable," said Connors, who happens also to enjoy a 4-0 record against the player nicknamed "Bobo."

Connors was on his way to an apparently easy victory until Zivojinovic came on strong after switching to a tighter-strung racket.

Connors served for the match at 5-4, only to make four unforced groundstroke errors. In the tie-breaker, Connors pulled away from 2-2 on three forehand errors and two forehand volley winners.



Ivan Lendl

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(Arabic)

(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema

OPERA

Tel: 675573

CHAINED HEAT

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Economy

Sudan tightens monetary policy

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government, in an attempt to curb inflation, has tightened its monetary policy, according to a report from the Sudanese Press Syndicate.

The report said the government has decided to restrict the amount of money that can be printed and to limit the amount of credit that can be granted by banks.

The report also said the government has decided to increase the interest rate on loans and to increase the amount of money that must be held in reserve by banks.

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U.S. 1985 trade deficit rockets to \$148.5 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit soared to a record \$148.5 billion last year, the Commerce Department said Thursday, a development likely to renew pressure in Congress to curb imports.

The deficit rose more than 20 per cent above the record of the previous year of \$123.3 billion.

One-third of last year's deficit was with Japan alone — \$49.7 billion.

Separately, the department reported that the index of leading indicators, a key barometer of the economy, rose a healthy 0.9 per cent last month.

But financial markets had expected the index to go higher and reacted by pushing down the dollar sharply. It fell below 193 yen, the lowest point in seven years.

The trade deficit, the excess of imported goods over exports, was also a record in December, climbing \$17.4 billion after a rise of \$13.7 billion in November.

Exports decreased in 1985 for the first time in two years, while imports rose six per cent. A strong dollar earlier in the year gave a price advantage to imports over U.S. goods.

The trade imbalance has held

back the economy's growth and meant American producers have lost a share of their markets to foreign manufacturers.

"There appears to be no end in sight to the chronic trade problems we have," Mr. Allen Sinai, senior vice president of Shearson Lehman Bros. Inc., said.

The Reagan administration defused a movement towards protectionism in Congress last year after it adopted a tough stance on unfair trade practices and spearheaded a coordinated effort by Western countries to lower the dollar.

But supporters of protectionist legislation in Congress are expected to pounce on the trade figures to urge restrictions on imports.

Experts say a time lag could prevent the benefits from dollar's decline in recent months from showing up as an improved trade balance until the middle of this year.

The December index of leading indicators was boosted by a surge in building permits and stock prices.

Last month's rise was the highest since a 1.3 per cent increase in January. The index rose in 11 of the months in 1985.

Japan amasses \$56b in world trade surplus

TOKYO (R) — Japan Friday reported a record surplus of \$56 billion in trade with the rest of the world in 1985 as its leaders said that smoothing out the imbalance remained the nation's top priority.

The figures, released by the finance ministry said exports totalled \$174 billion.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who brushed aside difficult questions in parliament Friday over poor prospects for Japan's own economy, told reporters earlier that resolution of the trade issue was Japan's top priority.

Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe supported Mr. Nakasone and special External Economics Minister Masumi Esaki warned of the political dangers of retaliation against Japan unless it cut the surplus to help to smooth the imbalance in world trade.

News of the huge surplus helped to weaken the dollar further on currency markets. It ended at

192.65 yen in Tokyo, down from 193.95 Thursday and well over 200 only a week ago.

Dealers forecast the trade figures would spark demands in the U.S. Congress for protectionist moves against Japan, scaring Tokyo into a further appreciation of the yen in order to try to lower the surplus with the United States.

The major industrial nations have been trying to depress the dollar since September, especially against the yen. They hope a higher yen will make Japanese goods more expensive to overseas buyers.

Japanese figures show this is already happening but export value is actually rising, increasing the trade surplus.

The higher yen has already begun to hit smaller Japanese exporting firms, bankrupting some and threatening to drive others out of business, a recent survey showed.

Canada suffers major loss in end of natural gas project

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — An ambitious \$2.8 billion Canadian project to sell liquefied natural gas to Japan was cancelled Thursday as a result of the recent sharp decline in oil prices.

The project called for construction of a \$1.6 billion gas liquefaction plant near Prince Rupert, British Columbia, a \$700 million fleet of special tankers and a \$350 million pipeline to bring the gas from Alberta to British Columbia.

Abandonment of the expensive project followed more than five years of fruitless pricing negotiations.

The project would have supplied 2.35 million tons of liquefied natural gas for 20 years.

British Columbia Energy Minister Stephen Rogers said the two sides appeared close to agreement but with the dramatic drop in oil prices, "the economics of the project are no longer attractive."

Analysts said that while the decision was no real surprise in light of oil price cuts, it still came as a major blow to the Canadian Pacific region and the Canadian government.

Japan gets first cheap oil from Saudi Arabia

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese firms have signed their first cut-price oil contracts with Saudi Arabia as part of a series of deals which will account for nearly a quarter of Japan's daily needs, industry sources said Friday.

Four firms have concluded deals to import Saudi Arabian oil at the same cheap price paid by Western countries since September in so-called netback deals, they said.

Netback deals mean oil is sold at a price which guarantees the refiner a profit. Many Japanese refiners have been reluctant to buy at the official Saudi price which is higher than for oil from other sources on the free market.

"No doubt the conclusion of these deals will mean international oil prices are going to fall further," one trader in crude said.

The four companies declined to confirm the deals. But an official of one refining company confirmed that it had been approached by a trading firm as a possible recipient for the oil.

All but two Japanese customers for Saudi crude allowed their long-term contracts to expire last year as Saudi prices were increasingly less attractive in a falling market.

Saudi Arabia sold only 200,000 barrels a day to Japan in 1985. But the netback deals through both Japanese firms and major Western refiners mean imports will rise to more than 600,000 barrels a day.

Members of the OPEC — the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries — vowed at a meeting in December to recapture and hold their share of the world market.

"Saudi Arabia certainly achieved its aim of recapturing and shutting in its Japan market (with these new deals)," one trader commented.

Japan has managed to obtain cheaper and cheaper crude in long term deals from its other main Middle East suppliers. Saudi Arabia had been the only country left which insisted Japan paid its official high price, the trader added.

Meanwhile, many countries around the world are adjusting their policies according to the new developments arising in the oil markets.

In Ankara, minister of state, Mr. Kazim Oksay said Thursday that Turkey has stopped all oil purchases and begun negotiating new prices with major suppliers because of falling world prices.

Turkey buy most of its oil on long-term contracts with Iran and Iraq, with the Turkish payment retained at the central bank in Ankara and used to pay Turkish companies exporting to those countries. Other oil suppliers are Libya, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and China.

The newspaper Milliyet said Thursday talks had begun with Iran, Iraq, Libya and Saudi Ara-

bia. Mr. Oksay, told Reuters through an aide that Turkey now had the currency reserves to pay cash for its oil and had opened a spot market tender for 130,000 tonnes of crude and 70,000 tonnes of fuel oil and diesel.

He did not give price details but said earlier Turkey was paying around \$30 a barrel last September.

Earlier last month it negotiated a cut with Iran to \$27.05.

Turkish oil purchases last year were around 16 million tonnes.

Industry sources said Thursday that in an effort to maintain its share of the world oil market, Mexico is expected to cut its oil prices by at least \$1 a barrel in the next few days.

Mexico's two main crude oils, Isthmus and Maya, are currently priced at about \$26 and \$22 a barrel respectively.

Late in January Mexico cut its prices by about 90 cents a barrel. The second largest debtor nation is reported keen to maintain its markets, particularly in the U.S. and Far East.

There have also been suggestions Mexico would move to offering a number of different crude oils at the same time which would allow companies to negotiate different proportions based on their needs.

Since last year, in an effort, to build and maintain market shares, Mexico has had a three tiered pricing system which quotes different prices, reflecting transportation costs, for the Far East, northwest Europe and the United States.

Egypt 'is not in a hurry'

In Cairo, Egypt, which cut its crude oil prices for January three days ago, does not plan to fix February prices immediately, an official of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) said Thursday.

"We are not in a hurry," he told Reuters. "We are still reviewing the market and the prices."

Suez blend, Egypt's top grade, was cut by \$3 a barrel because of falling world market prices. Other grades were cut by between \$1 and \$2.95 a barrel.

Until the latest price slump, non-OPEC Egypt produced 870,000 barrels per day (b/d), some 300,000 b/d of it exported at prices set before the start of each month.

Apart from slashing prices, the EGPC said exports were being cut by 200,000 b/d to conserve supplies while prices were low.

EC to debate economic impact

In Brussels, the 17-member European Commission, the ex-

clusive body of the European Community (EC), will meet on Wednesday to discuss the impact of falling oil prices on the European economy.

The European commissioner for energy, Mr. Nic Mosar, said the debate was "urgently needed" in light of the OPEC ministerial committee meeting on Monday and Norway's indication that it might be willing to reduce its oil production.

Mr. Mosar said the oil price turmoil of the last few days appeared to have calmed down, which he attributed to colder weather in Europe and certain delivery difficulties.

OPEC likely to raise official output

Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said in Jakarta Thursday that OPEC will probably increase its ceiling on crude oil output to 18 million b/d slightly below current actual production.

He told reporters the final formula would depend on the outcome of next week's meetings of the organisation. The present official ceiling is 16 million b/d.

"Eighteen million b/d is the amount that members are discussing," Dr. Subroto said. It would be an annual average but the level would be adjusted to certain quarters of the year depending on demand.

A special five-nation OPEC ministerial committee is due to meet in Vienna on Feb. 3 to look at ways of securing and defending a fair market share for OPEC.

Dr. Subroto earlier told a parliamentary hearing that prices would not slide below the lowest levels reached last month. Prices were expected to rise again to an average of \$25 a barrel in 1986 and 1987, he said.

Dr. Subroto indicated that the proposed new ceiling was aimed at stabilising prices following OPEC's decision in January to defend its share of the world market by boosting output.

He also said that world oil and condensate consumption was likely to decline to 45.4 million b/d this calendar year from 45.5 million in 1985. World output was projected to be stagnant at 42.7 million b/d, he said.

He noted that Egypt had decided to cut output to prop up world prices and said Mexico was likely to do the same after talks with Venezuela. Norway had expressed willingness to cut output if Britain and OPEC did so, he said.

Soviet oil exports to non-communist countries had also declined, he said.

Kuwait will spare no effort to contain price war

In Kuwait, Oil and Industry Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said that Kuwait will spare no effort to contain an oil price war.

He predicted that the current plunge in oil prices would be short-lived, adding "we have to be patient and work hard to counter this crisis, whether through cooperation with OPEC countries or with others."

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4125/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4240/50	Canadian dollars
	2.3880/95	West German marks
	2.6980/90	Dutch guilders
	2.0270/90	Swiss francs
	48.85/90	Belgian francs
	7.3150/200	French francs
	1627/1629	Italian lire
	192.95/193.05	Japanese yen
	7.5200/300	Swedish crowns
	7.4475/525	Norwegian crowns
	8.8200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	353.55/354.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher in moderate trading after a mixed start, mainly reflecting steadier sterling, with buying interest helped by special situation stocks, dealers said.

The FTSE 30 index at 1530 Friday was 4.8 up at 1161.2, having reached an intra day high of 1161.6 and the FTSE 100 index was 5.7 up at 1434.8.

Bovater Industries closed 12p higher at 300 following news Hanson Trust has increased its stake in the company to 11.71 per cent. Hanson ended 3p up at 144. ICI was 11p higher at 817 on late U.S. buying, dealers said.

Government bonds extended early 3/16 point gains to 5/16 with sterling, dealers said. Banks were dull, while mixed insurances saw Sun Life 18p up at 837. Golds were easier.

Yarrow lost an early 23p gain on profit-taking to close 20p down at 560, after news of an increased final offer from Weir group. Beecham gained 8p to 366 on renewed bid speculation, dealers said. Davenports added 35p to 410, after news of an increased offer from Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, unmoored at 415, valuing the company at \$34.5 million.

Exel group was 5p up at 285 moving to 293 in late trading on rejection of an offer from Demerger Corp. a new company.

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EC plans big investments in tobacco

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) has drawn up plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to encourage the growth of high-quality tobacco for the cigarette industry, authoritative EC sources said Thursday.

Ironically the move comes only weeks after the Community unveiled a new anti-cancer campaign.

Under the new plans, EC tobacco producers and processors, mainly in Greece and Italy, would receive some \$670 million in grants and aids in the coming year.

This compares with the \$5 million proposed for the five-year action programme on cancer prevention, the sources told Reuters.

Dr. Barry Seal, the British chairman of the European Parliament's industrial committee, told Reuters "This is absolutely typical of the muddled thinking of Brussels where one hand does not know what the other is doing."

Dr. Seal (Socialist, Yorkshire), who has been urging a Community anti-smoking campaign, said he would be placing an emergency motion at the parliament's next session in February calling for the tobacco grants to be phased out.

The plans are contained within the still confidential 1986-87 farm price package which sets the levels of the guaranteed minimum prices paid to the EC's 12 million farmers.

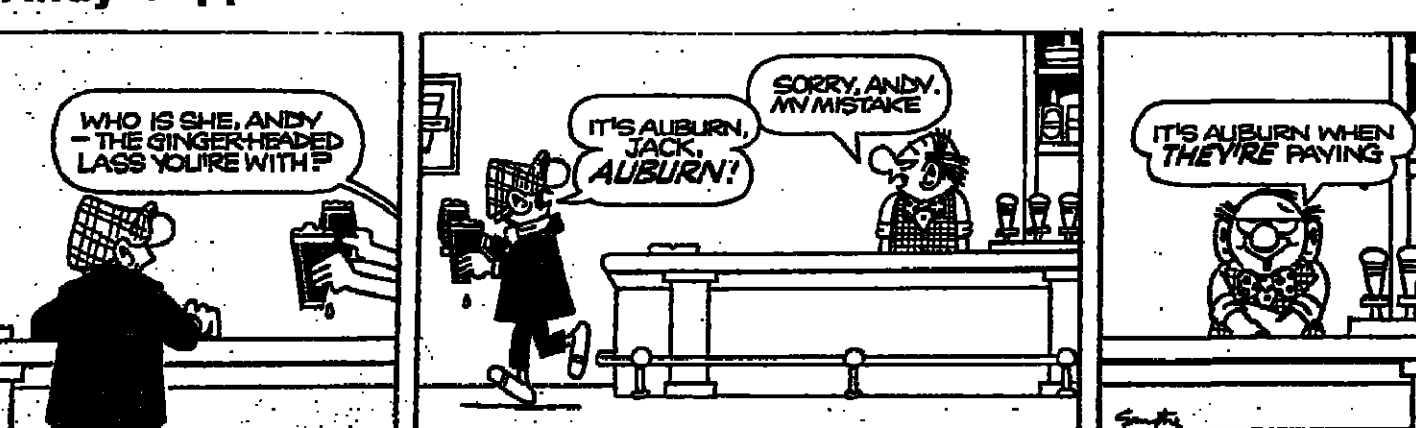
Peanuts



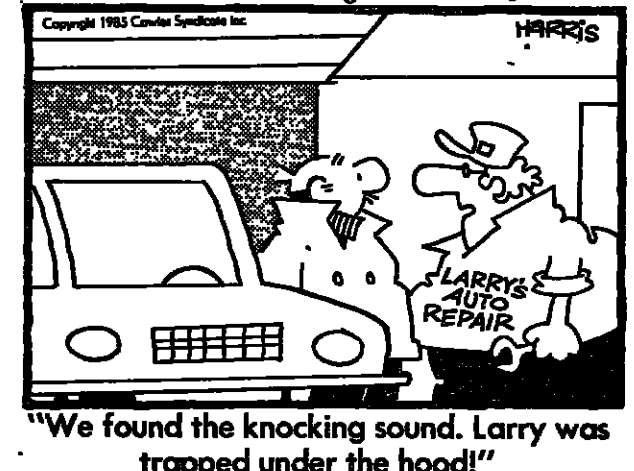
Mutt 'n' Jeff



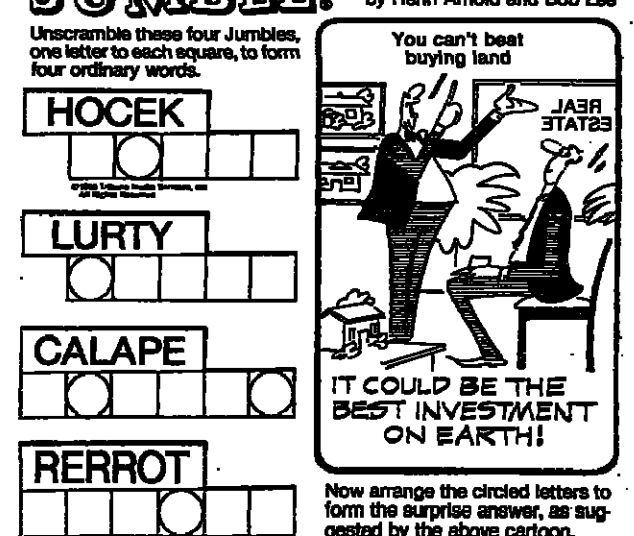
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Print answer here: _____
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumble: FRIAR TESTY ENTIRE HELMET
Answer: Sometimes a police dog is the only law with this — TEETH IN

